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JOSEPH SULLIVAN

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HINTON ON CHINA AND ASIA BALANCE
(PRESS CONFERENCE -- USA)

ANNCR:

THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IN CHINA SINCE THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI -- THE ABRUPT DISMISSAL OF VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG TO REPLACE HIM, THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN PEKING -- IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED BY SCHOLARS IN CHINESE AFFAIRS. ONE OF THESE IS PROFESSOR HAROLD HINTON OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S SINO-SOVIET INSTITUTE AND THE AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND BOOKS ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA. PROFESSOR HINTON SHARED HIS VIEWS WITH VOA AS GUEST OF THE WEEK'S "PRESS CONFERENCE -- USA"...AS WE HEAR IN THIS REPORT BY NEWS ANALYST JOSEPH SULLIVAN.

VOICE:

PROFESSOR HINTON WAS ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT POLITICAL TURMOIL IN PEKING AND ITS POSSIBLE MEANING FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE'S OF THE OPINION THAT THE PAST FOUR MONTHS HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT IN CHINA TO THE PASSING OF CHOU EN-LAI AND THAT ONE MIGHT NOW EXPECT A RELATIVELY STABLE PERIOD TO FOLLOW:

TAPE CUT ONE -- HINTON:

"I DO BELIEVE THAT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE RADICAL LEADERS THIS WEEK, WE NOW HAVE ALL THE MAJOR ACTORS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE. AND, I THINK THAT PROBABLY FROM NOW UNTIL THE TIME MAO DIES WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE MORE STABILITY THAN WE HAVE SEEN FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS...I THINK THAT BY NOW THE CHINESE SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENT ARE BECOMING FAIRLY CLEAR. THE BIG EVENT THAT HAPPENED TO UPSET OUR PREVIOUS EXPECTATIONS WAS, OF COURSE, THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THAT EVENT ARE LESS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED AND COULD HAVE BEEN IMAGINED."

VOICE:

ON POLITICAL FACTIONALISM IN CHINA, PROFESSOR HINTON SAYS IT'S GENERALLY ASSUME OUTSIDE CHINA THAT THE RADICAL WING OF THE PEKING LEADERSHIP DRAWS MUCH OF ITS STRENGTH FROM A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MAO TSE-TUNG. CORRECT OR NOT, HE SAYS, THE ASSUMPTION LIVES BECAUSE MAO HAS NEVER DENOUNCED THE RADICALS PUBLICLY. IN PROFESSOR'S HINTON'S VIEW, THE LEFT WING IS REPRESENTED PRINCIPALLY AT THE MIDDLE AND LOWER LEVELS OF THE CHINESE POLITICAL SYSTEM... BY PEOPLE WHO WERE YOUNG AT THE TIME OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND WHO STILL RETAIN SOME OF THE ULTRA-REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR THAT WENT WITH THAT MOVEMENT. THERE IS ALSO LEFTIST SUPPORT, HE SAYS, IN THE LOWER AND MIDDLE RANKS OF THE BUREAUCRACY, INCLUDING THE MILITARY BUREAUCRACY. BUT, IN PROFESSOR HINTON'S WORDS: "THE LEFT HAS LACKED BOTH ORGANIZATION AND A POWER BASE OF THEIR OWN SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RED GUARDS IN 1968."

TURNING TO CHINESE FOREIGN RELATIONS, PROFESSOR HINTON SAYS THE REASONS BEHIND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SINO-INDIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL ARE PROBABLY MORE OBVIOUS IN NEW DELHI THAN IN PEKING. IN HIS WORDS:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HINTON:

"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT INDIA FOR SOME TIME NOW HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH NOT ALLOWING ITS RELATIONS WITH EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR CHINA TO DETERIORATE BEYOND REPAIR, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T WANT TO BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION IN ANY SENSE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE RECENT GESTURES TOWARD PAKISTAN AND CHINA FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY. THE TIMING IS INTERESTING, AND IN A WAY PUZZLING, SINCE THE LAST MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS WAS A CLASH ON THE BORDER LAST OCTOBER TWENTIETH -- EXACTLY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE 1962 BORDER WAR."

VOICE:

PROFESSOR HINTON OBSERVES THAT AMERICAN AND CHINESE INTERESTS DO INDEED RUN PARALLEL ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND, MOST PROMINENTLY, IN AFRICA. THE BASIC THRUST OF BOTH WASHINGTON'S AND PEKING'S FOREIGN POLICY IN AFRICA, HE SAYS, IS TO PREVENT THE SOVIET UNION FROM MAKING INROADS. AND HE PREDICTS THAT SO LONG AS THIS SITUATION EXISTS, THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA WILL OPERATE ON PARALLEL -- THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY CONVERGING -- LINES.

ON THE SUBJECT OF ASIAN REGIONAL SECURITY, PROFESSOR HINTON BELIEVES THAT MUCH DEPENDS ON WASHINGTON'S FOREIGN POLICY STANCE IN THE AREA AND THE SHAPE WHICH THE EVOLVING BALANCE OF POWER IN ASIA TAKES. IF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO RETAIN A RESPECTABLE MILITARY PRESENCE, HE SAYS, THERE IS A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD OF A VIABLE POWER BALANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN AND CHINA ON ONE LEVEL AND SOME OF THE MAJOR REGIONAL STATES ON ANOTHER. IT'S UNLIKELY, HE BELIEVES, THAT JAPANESE REARMAMENT WILL OCCUR. BARRING SOME UNPREDICTABLE AND IMPROBABLE EVENT SUCH AS A MAJOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE AREA. AND HE SEES LITTLE CHANCE OF ANY ONE POWER DOMINATING ASIA IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD.

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